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Press Release

Twelve mid-career Arab media professionals to win a three-month fellowship in the US

Washington DC, April 2006 – Arab journalists and editors will have a unique opportunity this fall to improve their media management skills through a comprehensive three month fellowship that will include three weeks of academic training with the prestigious Northwestern University in Chicago and on-site assignments at American media companies.

The fellowship program is organized and implemented by the International Research and Exchanges Board and AmmanNet. It is one element of MENA MEDIA, a three-year program aimed at enhancing independent media in the Arab region with support from the US Department of State's Middle East Partnership Initiative.

Media professionals with at least 10 years of media experience from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, West Bank and Gaza will be invited to apply. Up to twelve fellowships will be selected this summer with participants traveling to the US in the fall.

Mark Whitehouse, Director of IREX's Media Development Division, said that the fellowship offers professionals opportunities to expand their knowledge and see how different media systems work. "It will allow media professionals to develop their leadership skills and at the same time provide them with an inside view into how American media outlets work."

The fellowship will provide participants with the opportunity to develop leadership and management skills while experiencing alternate media management methodologies. Each fellow will complete a four- to six-week fellowship at an assigned US media outlet. Every fellowship placement will be unique and consist of a number of different tasks, responsibilities, assignments and levels of project involvement based on the expertise and goals of the fellow. Each participant will have staff member support at the media outlet who will help guide the fellow's professional development.

Applicants will need to have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English. Deadline for applications is June 15, 2006.

For more details on the fellowship and to obtain an application, please visit www.irex-mena.org or www.ammannet.net/fellowship

IREX is an international nonprofit organization providing leadership and innovative programs to improve the quality of education, strengthen independent media, and foster pluralistic civil society development. Founded in 1968, IREX has an annual portfolio of \$50 million and a staff of over 500 professionals worldwide. IREX and its partner IREX Europe deliver cross-cutting programs and consulting expertise in more than 50 countries. For more information about IREX, visit www.irex.org.

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